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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I find it hard to believe that, after six months of round-the-clock negotiations, nine of the eighteen plaintiff states still refuse to close the case with Microsoft and accept what is, for all intents and purposes, a perfectly reasonable settlement. I do not believe it is necessary to drag the suit out any longer, especially considering the negative impact it has already had on the economy, and the IT industry. Under the circumstances, it is in the best interest of all parties involved to settle the case and move on.

Three years have been spent reaching the decision that is currently under review, and I cannot imagine how much longer it would take before the remaining litigious states would be satisfied. There is more to be lost through needless litigation than there is to be gained in reconsidered settlement. The terms Microsoft agreed to extend not only to policies and products found to be unlawful by the Court of Appeals, but also to some that were not found to be in violation of antitrust law. In this respect, the settlement is not only fair, but also generous. Microsoft has agreed to change future versions of the Windows operating system so that its competitors would be able to introduce their own software directly into Windows. Microsoft has also agreed to provide third parties acting under the agreement with a license to applicable intellectual property rights to prevent infringement issues.

I do not believe it is necessary for the suit to remain open. Microsoft and the Department of Justice have come to an agreement that addresses the complaints of the involved parties and makes generous concessions as well. No further action is needed.

Sincerely,



Matt Dawson

cc: Representative Chris Cannon